

LETTERS

ADDRESSED

TO THE HON. JOHN DAVIS,

CONCERNING

The Census of 1849, by Nahum Capen and Jesse Chickering.

MARCH 3, 1849.

Ordered to be printed.

BOSTON, January, 1849.

SIR: Before proceeding to suggest the details to be observed in taking the next census, in reply to your favor of last month, permit me briefly to allude to some of the principles which have chiefly influenced me in deciding upon the outline submitted.

"The object of a census," says an intelligent English writer, "is to throw some useful light upon the general condition of the community. The government have, however, been restrained by the apprehension that jealousy and prejudice might be excited if the inquiries were too searching and minute. People are slow to see that questions relating to themselves and their households can have any bearing on the general good, and forget that, in accounts of large numbers, the individual is wholly lost sight of in the average, but that the average can only be obtained by an accurate knowledge of all that pertains to the individual."

That a people, subject to a government not of their own creation or control, should be jealous of government interrogatories, is perfectly natural. Where taxation has become an oppressive evil, and the wants of government are comparatively unknown, except to those who are in authority, the people are reluctant to impart knowledge with respect to their sources of wealth, having much reason to fear new claims upon their possessions which perhaps they may not feel able to meet, or, if able, unwilling to acknowledge.

However this may be in other countries, there need be no apprehension of any such evil in ours. Our government and people are identical, and whatever is attempted by the former must be permanently useful in order to be sustained by the latter. The people constitute the perpetual source of power, while the government is but the temporary agent.

Our government has no interests of its own, independent of those of the people. If it seeks a knowledge of the extent of the various interests of the country, which it is bound to promote and protect, it is with no other view than that of securing new means for their further advancement. To do less, would seem to be an omission of duty, and to expect a prompt

and judicious legislation, without a full knowledge of the great and varying resources of our country, and of whatever tends to promote the true welfare of the nation both moral and physical, would argue a want of faith in the means within our reach, and a confidence in the results of chance.

If it be expected of a government that the great objects for which it was instituted should be faithfully studied and promptly executed, it cannot be doubted that the people, with proper assurances, would cheerfully co-operate in collecting and systematizing all knowledge tending to illustrate the safest policy, the surest industry, the happiest destiny.

The census, if properly taken, is essentially the true friend of the people. For the little information which each citizen is able to give, the government extends a knowledge of all, and all alike have access to its developments which cannot prove otherwise than a fruitful source of practical suggestions, leading to new sources and objects of enterprise and industry.

The census is not a measure of modern times, and yet, although professionally adopted by all civilized nations, it has not received that attention which is due to its immeasurable importance. It is a matter of surprise, that a subject so susceptible of improvement, and of such vital moment to the welfare of a people, should remain so long in its crude original elements. In some instances it has been reduced in its objects, and in others almost wholly neglected.

The census was first instituted by Servius Tullius, and during his reign taken every five years. The Romans were required to make declaration upon oath, of their respective names, and places of abode. This declaration was accompanied with a catalogue, in writing, of all the estates, lands and inheritances they possessed, their quantity, quality, place, wives, children, tenants, domestics, slaves, &c.

The ancients knew the power of knowledge, and whatever may have been their motives in regarding the census a measure of the first consequence to the commonwealth, they certainly discovered a remarkable discernment in the choice of means to accomplish their purposes. Our objects may be different, more numerous, and by far more important, but the means of success are essentially the same, viz: the knowledge of what we are, of what we want, of what we possess, of what we have done, and of what we propose to do. Such a knowledge is of common interest, and it is a guard against selfishness, and a sure protection to industry. It tends to encourage virtue, while it promises nothing to vice, and it leads to that commendable pride which moves the citizen to participate in the glory of his country, and to perform acts of patriotism in its defence.

With respect to the subject of population, whatever information is calculated to illustrate the conditions of health, the causes of disease, physical defect or disability, influence of profession, social relations, or of climate, may be regarded as important to the welfare of the nation.

Life and health insurance companies are springing up in all parts of our country as institutions of beneficence, and as their operations are based upon facts, so far as ascertained, in view of pecuniary results, it may be considered whether government is not bound to regard this class of statistics quite as important as those of commerce and navigation.

All, probably, admit the importance of ascertaining the number of the deaf and dumb, the blind, the insane and idiotic; and why we should

omit to take the first step in seeking the probable causes of these defects, it is difficult to understand.

To gather statistics in reference to the number of persons engaged in the different professions, without endeavoring to reach, in some degree, the measure of their success, seems to be but little more than the process of counting, having no actual object in view. A census should have for its objects, independently of its constitutional uses, the moral, physical, and pecuniary good of the people, and that plan which most fully represents the citizen in his position of success, or of failure, should be esteemed the most perfect, and because it would prove to be the most useful.

After taking a distinct view of man in his moral and physical relations, we may next proceed to notice his labors, in their diversity of process and division, making it a chief object to note whatever is successful, or otherwise, and whatever is beneficial or injurious, thereby coming to results which may prove instructive to the people of every class and condition.

The earth has its diversified wealth, to be developed by the industry of man, and the nature and extent of its various products make up a most useful chapter for the study of the people, in regard to proper and profitable pursuits.

First in importance is agriculture and its subservient interests. The nature and capacity of the soils; the variety of products for which they are fitted; the amount of products and their home valuation.

As all business is based upon the wants of men, it is unnecessary to speak of the importance of knowing the extent both of supply and consumption. To this knowledge, in modern times, is to be attributed that exemption from physical suffering caused by famines, of which we read so much as occurring in ages of ignorance, and in countries where the people are not permitted to know their own capacity and resources. And *in this knowledge* we shall find a remedy to check the reckless speculation of modern times.

Famines are the results of natural causes, and, fortunately for man, they are generally confined within narrow limits; and if most nations are true to the standard of duty, all may be preserved. Seasons and years vary in their productiveness according to fixed laws. Changes are produced by changes, and yet the laws of variation are unchangeable. They may be studied and understood sufficiently, at least, for all practical purposes. Although the earth is partially liable to droughts and to excesses of wet, it is well ascertained that the amount of rain in any given place is the same during a period of five years. It is well known that vegetables of every kind are not only liable to disease, but to the ravages of insects. It is, therefore, but an act of common prudence to cultivate the variety which nature has given us, and in sufficient abundance to provide against all contingencies.

The products of the earth are as various as they are abundant; and when men or nations confine themselves to a small number, to the neglect of the many, they render themselves liable to be deprived of their accustomed food. This is a most important truth, to be considered by people who have no source of support but from the coming and uncertain harvest.

We have a striking example in the history of Ireland, how a nation may be made to suffer by placing its dependence upon the crop of a sin-

gle root. It was natural that a declining people should be led, by degrees, to favor the growing of the potato in preference to other things, because its cultivation is easy. It requires but little labor, and, where industry is wanting, and means are small, the choice seems to be inevitable.

With our great extent of territory and diversity of climate, we may have less to fear than most other nations. But considering the rapid changes constantly taking place in our condition, the unyielding ambition of our people, the irregularity of enterprise, the new and exciting temptations in prospects of wealth, and new interests; and, withal, our great and responsible relations and duties to the less favored nations of the earth, it becomes an imperative duty of government to make frequent registers of the progress of the country, in order that all may be prepared, with a discriminating knowledge, to meet and master the probable or possible adverses in their own affairs; and to know the extent of their ability to aid others who may be reduced to want. Besides, the knowledge that would enable us to do this, is eminently calculated to advance us in the great scale of success.

In determining the limits of what a census should be, I know of no rule, except to render it complete, by representing all that variety of important interests which make up the entire circle of the natural means and agents of a country's resources and power. This leads us to the great subject of labor. The earth yields but little, except to labor. An analysis of this topic is quaintly and briefly given by Locke. He says:

"An acre of land that bears here twenty bushels of wheat, and another in America which, with the same husbandry, would do the like, are, without doubt, of the same natural intrinsic value, (utility.) But yet the benefit mankind receives from the one in a year is worth five pounds, and from the other possibly not worth a penny, if all the profit an Indian received from it were to be valued and sold here, at least, I may truly say, not one-thousandth. It is labor, then, which puts the greatest part of value upon land, without which it would scarcely be worth any thing. It is to that we owe the greatest part of all its useful products; for all that the straw, bran, bread, of that acre of wheat, is worth more than the product of an acre of as good land which lies waste, is all the effect of labor. For it is not barely the ploughman's pains, the reaper's and thrasher's toil, and the baker's sweat is to be accounted into the bread we eat; the labor of those who broke the oxen, who digged and wrought the iron and stones, who felled and framed the timber employed about the plough, mill, oven, or any other utensils, which are a vast number, requisite to this corn; from its being seed to be sown to its being made bread, must all be charged on the account of labor, and received as an effect of that; nature and the earth furnished only the almost worthless materials as in themselves. It would be a strange catalogue of things that industry provided and made use of about every loaf of bread before it came to our use, if we could trace them; iron, wood, leather, bark, timber, stone, bricks, coals, lime, cloth, dyeing, drugs, pitch, tar, masts, ropes, and all the materials made use of in the ships that brought away the commodities made use of by any of the workmen to any part of the work; all which it would be almost impossible, at least too long, to reckon up."

Even a partial examination of this subject must satisfy any one that the neglect of a simple interest must ultimately affect injuriously all other interests.

Next to agriculture, we may notice the sources of wealth to be found in the earth, oceans, lakes, and rivers. Reaching, in fact, every object of industry for the purpose of ascertaining its moral, economical and national tendency, and to aid in deciding those great questions of legislation so frequently discussed, and of so much consequence to the permanent and ultimate success of our people.

We may now leave the *materiel* in its original bed to trace its various modifications in the numerous fabrics which the inventive genius of man has designed, and consider the great interests of the mechanic and manufacturer, whose skill and energy contribute so essentially to the progress of civilization by the means of commerce and navigation. Wants multiply wants, and lead to those divisions of labor which give distinct and available interests to the individuals composing the great masses of society.

To discuss the expediency of obtaining moral and educational statistics, would be equivalent to doubting the propriety of knowing the extent of our progress in the growth of character and means of happiness. Without such knowledge, it would seem like a trader's account, made up for settlement, having long columns of figures and no sums total, to show in whose favor the balance stands.

I need not, however, urge upon the committee any considerations to induce them to adopt views upon this branch of the subject, which doubtless are entertained by most persons who have given to it any degree of attention. I would only remark, that an acknowledgement of the importance of moral statistics should be followed by corresponding, prompt, and efficient action. Every degree of knowledge imposes an additional obligation of duty.

While it is admitted to be of the utmost consequence to collect, in connexion with the census, such statistics as are calculated to illustrate the varied capacity of production of our nation, and to teach the people the conditions of success and failure, the sources of comfort and misery, it is equally so, that all information thus collected should be so classified as to show clearly and conclusively its objects and uses. If rightly compiled, it will be PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE, affording lessons of incalculable value to the people, if they will but read for themselves. In addition to the usual process of tabularizing facts, a classification should be adopted which shall exhibit their legitimate tendency both to the individual and to the nation.

To reduce the objects of the census by making inquiries upon some subjects, and omitting others; to ask some questions, without asking all properly belonging to the subject to be illustrated; to permit that to be imperfectly done, which is valuable only when thoroughly done, and which rigid economy requires to be executed with care, skill, and thoroughness, would be an injustice to the great interests of the country, which, I trust, will not be sanctioned by your honorable committee.

It has been supposed by some that a reduction of objects would necessarily secure increased accuracy. In my humble apprehension, this is a great error. A work is generally executed with care, or otherwise, according to the degree of its magnitude and importance. To reduce its extent is to lessen its value and importance, and we can well understand how agents of an inferior class might be deemed competent for the lesser duty, while they would not be considered, for a moment, as qualified for the performance

of a labor requiring peculiar fitness and experience. To suppose that a limited census, *made accurate*, is better than one extended, and *inaccurate*, is a useless proposition, inasmuch as its formal statement would seem to imply doubt of what is self-evident.

To doubt the ability of our government to do ample justice to this subject, because, for obvious reasons, the census of 1840 was erroneous, would be to pervert the lessons of experience, and to acknowledge the cause of failure to be superior to the principles of success. Such an admission would be unworthy of a people whose views and institutions are those of constant endeavor and perpetual progress.

Assuming, then, that no one will be disposed to question the practical importance of a complete and accurate census, it is hardly necessary to remark, that its execution should be scrupulously placed in the hands of competent persons—persons of known and acknowledged ability in the science of statistics. It is a peculiar business, and, to ensure the advantages of science, of accuracy, and completeness, it should be confided to minds peculiarly fitted by nature and study for executing the difficult task.

I would, therefore, suggest the appointment by the President of a BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS—say of five—with full authority to appoint in the several States a sufficient number of assistants for the proper and faithful execution of the law—it being presumed that the Executive would thus secure the best talents of the country, without reference to party, for the important and peculiar duties to be detailed in the premises.

Let it be considered the duty of the commissioners to compile with the proposed census such other statistics as State documents may enable them to do—if deemed important as furnishing additional illustrations of the great interests of the country—whether of a moral, physical, or pecuniary nature. That it shall be the duty of the commissioners to cause the taking of the census to be commenced on the first of June, 1850, and completed on or before the first of October, 1850; and that they shall use all proper and prudent means to prepare the said census for publication, with the least possible delay, adopting such forms of tables, and such classification of subjects and objects as shall exhibit the true intent of the law. The same to be reported to the Secretary of State as soon as consistent with careful execution, and by him to be placed at the disposal of Congress. That an appropriation be made by Congress of ———— dollars, to be disbursed by the Secretary of State, or by the Secretary of the Treasury, the commissioners having audited all accounts for labor performed, in accordance with the requisitions of the law which Congress may enact in reference to the same. The compensation to the commissioners, and to the assistants in the several States, to be determined by Congress, as heretofore, when the duty of taking the census has been assigned to the Secretary of State and to the marshals. This course would cost but little more, if any, than that heretofore adopted. Its advantages, however, would outweigh all considerations of expense.

It would be easy to extend these remarks upon this important topic, and to give numerous illustrations to show the great value of a complete census to the nation, but I am compelled, by other engagements, to close this communication. I have written hastily, and submit my suggestions, with great deference, to your honorable committee.

I remain, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

NAHUM CAPEN.

EXPLANATORY.

The following outlines are respectfully suggested to the honorable committee for consideration. They are not given as complete, the design being to furnish simply what should constitute the main features of a census. The minor details, which are obvious, and the phraseology peculiar to legal enactments have not been attempted. Tables may be easily made embracing all the topics in the simplest form, so that whoever is appointed to perform the labor, will find no difficulty in executing the duty assigned. Having conversed with a gentleman who was engaged in taking the census of 1840, and stated to him the substance of my suggestions, he assured me that the labor would be but little increased by their entire adoption. Those portions which may be compiled from State documents, or omitted, with the least objection, if any, are marked S. D.

Should it be determined to have a limited census, much care and study would be requisite in the preparation of a correct scale of reduction.

POPULATION.

DAY OF REPRESENTATION, JUNE 1, 1850.

Houses and families.

Number of houses in the town or district.

Number of families in each house.

Heads of families.

Number of persons in each family.

Names of every person belonging to each family, whether present or temporarily absent.*

Domestic relation of each individual to the head of the family.

*Domestic condition and age.†**Males.*

Unmarried.

Age.

Married.

Age.

Widowed.

Age.

Total number.

Females.

Unmarried.

Age.

Married.

Age.

Widowed.

Age.

Total number.

*Colored persons—free.‡**Males.*

Unmarried.

Age.

Married.

Age.

Widowed.

Age.

Total number.

Females.

Unmarried.

Age.

Married.

Age.

Widowed.

Age.

Total number.

Slaves.

Males—Age.

Females—Age.

* The object of requiring names, is for the purpose of verifying and securing accuracy, &c.

† The usual classification of ages should be adopted: all under 5 years; of 5 and under 10; of 10 and under 15; of 15 and under 20; of 20 and under 30; and so on in each following decennary period of life to the age of 300, adding further the number of persons above 100.

‡ Indians should be returned separately.

Profession, occupation, or trade of each male person over 15 years of age.

Agriculture, for themselves.

For others.

Mining.

Manual trades.

Commerce, domestic, wholesale.

Commerce, foreign, wholesale.

Commerce, foreign and domestic, wholesale.

Commerce, retail.

Navigation of the oceans.

Navigation of the lakes and rivers.

Railroads and expresses.

Clergymen.

Physicians.

Lawyers.

Teachers, male and female.

Artists.

Engineers.

All others.

*Employed in manufactories.**Males.*

Under 9 years of age.

Over 9 and under 13.

Over 13 and under 18.

Over 18 and under 21.

Females.

Under 9 years of age.

Over 9 and under 13.

Over 13 and under 18.

Over 18 and under 21.

All over 21.

Place of birth.

In the town in which they reside.

In other places.

If foreigners, how long in the country.

Physical condition and relations.

Number of deaf and dumb.

Males; females; ages.

Hereditary; from what generation.

Number born blind.

Blind from accident or disease.

Males; females; ages.

Number of males born in the United States, insane since January 1, 1848.

Number of females born in the United States, insane since January 1, 1848.

Ages.

Number each of deaf, dumb, blind, insane, and idiotic, at public charge; number at private charge.

Number of males born out of the United States, insane since January 1, 1848.

Number of females born out of the United States, insane since January 1, 1848.

Ages.

Number of born idiots, native.

Male and female.

Ages.

Number born idiots, foreign.

Male and female.

Age.

Births, deaths, ages, profession, and marriages.

Births since January 1, 1849.

Males and females.

Deaths since January 1, 1849.

Males; females; ages.

Profession; married; unmarried; disease.

Marriages since January 1, 1849.

MORAL STATISTICS.*Education.*

Number of universities or colleges.

Amount of endowments.

Number of students; ages.

Annual tuition fees for each student.
 Total expenditure, exclusive of board.
 Number of academies.
 Number of scholars.
 Total expenditure, exclusive of board.
 Number of private schools.
 Number and ages of scholars.
 Expenditure, exclusive of board.
 Agricultural schools, &c., should be returned separately.
 Number of schools at public charge.
 Number of scholars from 4 to 16 years of age.
 Number of teachers—males; females.
 Pay per month to teachers, exclusive of board.
 Number of months schools kept in the year.
 Amount of school funds at interest.
 Other permanent provisions.
 Annual appropriation—say for 1849.
 Number of white *native* persons above 20 who cannot read or write.
 Number of *free* colored persons above 20 who cannot read or write.
 Males and females.
 Number of foreigners above 20 who cannot read or write.
 Length of residence in the United States.
 Total amount paid in 1849 for public schools.
 Total amount paid in 1849 for private schools.

Military schools.

Number at public expense.	Annual public appropriation.
Number at private expense.	Terms; tuition; board.
Number of students.	Date of establishment.
Ages of students.	Number of teachers.

Crime.—S. D.

Number of indictments for acts against the person.
 Number of convictions.
 Number of acquittals.
 Number of indictments for acts against property.
 Number of convictions.
 Number of acquittals.
 Number of indictments for capital offences.
 Number of executions in 1849, of the death penalty.
 Number of acquittals; number of cases commuted; otherwise disposed of.
 Number of convicts sentenced to imprisonment for life.
 Number of criminals born in the United States.
 Number of criminals born out of the United States.
 Males; females; ages.

Pauperism.—S. D.

Number of paupers at public charge.	From physical disability; from bad habits.
Number of males; females; ages.	Amount of appropriation in 1849.
Place of birth.	Value of labor performed, if any.

Institutions of charity and reform.—S. D.

Hospitals for the sick; for the insane; for the eye and ear.
 Schools for the blind, deaf and dumb; for indigent boys or girls.
 Schools of reform for children.
 Public appropriations for do.; private, do.
 Prisons, and system of discipline; number of prisoners; males; females; ages; crimes.
 Income; expenditures.

POLITICAL STATISTICS.—S. D.

Number of legal voters.
 Amount of debts due from States.
 Rate of taxation on every \$100 valuation.
 In States, towns, and counties.
 Valuation of property in each State.

AGRICULTURE.

Live stock.

Number of horses and mules.
 Number of cows; value of the products of the dairy.
 Other neat cattle:
 Number of sheep.
 Number of swine.
 Poultry of all kinds; estimated value.

Land.

Number of acres under cultivation.
 Owned by the occupant.

Leased by the occupant.
 Valuation.

Cereal grains.

Number of bushels of wheat.
 Number of bushels of barley.
 Number of bushels of oats.

Number of bushels of rye.
 Number of bushels of buckwheat.
 Number of bushels of Indian corn.

Various crops.

Number of bushels of potatoes.
 Number of bushels of carrots, and other root crops.
 Number of pounds of rice.
 Number of pounds of sugar made.
 Value of the products of the orchard.
 Number of gallons of wine made.
 Number of pounds of hops.
 Number of pounds of tobacco gathered.
 Number of tons of hay; upland.
 Number of tons of meadow-hay; lowland.
 Number of pounds of wool; half and quarter merino.
 Number of pounds do.; coarse.
 Number of tons of hemp and flax.
 Number of pounds of cotton gathered.
 Number of pounds of silk cocoons.
 Number of pounds of wax.

*Horticulture.**Gardens.*

Value of produce for the market.
 Value of produce of nurseries and florists.

Nurseries.

Number of men employed.
 Cash capital invested.

Number of acres of land cultivated, and number of green-houses.

MINES.

*Iron.**Pig iron—*

Number of smelting furnaces.
 Number of foundries.

Owned by individuals.*
 Owned by corporations.
 Date of corporations.
 Number of tons produced.†

Bar and railroad iron—

Number of bloomeries, forges, rolling mills.
 Number of tons bar-iron produced.
 Number of tons railroad iron, do.
 Number of men employed, including mining operations.
 Actual cash capital invested.
 Original capital; kind of fuel used.
 Value of fuel.

Lead.

Number of smelting houses, counting each fire one.
 Number of pounds produced.
 Owned and worked by individuals.
 Owned by corporations.
 Date of corporations.
 Number of men employed.
 Actual capital invested.

Gold.

Number of smelting houses.	Number of men employed.
Value produced.	Capital invested.

Other metals.‡

Kinds.	Number of men employed.
Value produced.	Capital invested.

Coal.

Anthracite.

Bituminous.

Tons raised, (28 bushels each.)	Date of corporations.
Number of men employed.	Number of bushels raised.
Actual cash capital invested.	Number of men employed.
Owned and worked by individuals.	Actual cash capital invested.
Owned and worked by corporations.	

Domestic salt.

Number of bushels produced by solar evaporation; by boiling.
 Number of men employed.
 Cash capital invested.

Granite, marble, and other stone.

Value produced.	Cash capital invested.
Number of men employed.	

PRODUCTS OF THE FOREST.

Value of lumber produced.
 Number of cords of wood sold; value.
 Number of barrels of tar, pitch, turpentine, rosin.
 Tons of pot and pearl ashes.
 Skins and furs; value produced.
 Ginseng, and all other productions; value.
 Number of men employed.
 Actual cash capital invested.

* "Date of establishment." This item should be added in all cases where the dates of corporations are asked.

† All returns of products should be made for 1849, unless otherwise stated.

‡ Copper should be inserted by itself, with proper questions in regard to quantity, process, &c.

FISHERIES.

Fresh fish ; value sold.

Number of quintals, smoked or dried fish.

Number of barrels pickled fish.

Number of gallons sperm oil.

Number of gallons whale, and other fish oil.

Value of shell fish sold.

Value of whalebone, and other productions.

Number of men employed.

Actual cash capital invested.

MANUFACTURES.

Cotton.

Number of mills.

Owned by individuals.

Owned by corporations.

Date of corporations.

Number of spindles.

Number of looms.

Value of manufactured articles.*

Number of bales of cotton used.

Number of persons employed ; males.

Number of females.

Number of hours at work each day ; at meals.

Original capital ; present capital.

Printeries.

Number of yards printed.

Value of materials used, domestic.

Value of materials used, foreign.

Number of males employed ; females.

Value of process per annum.

Owned by individuals.

Owned by corporations ; date of do.

Amount of capital invested.

Bleacheries.

Owned by corporations or individuals.

Number of males and females employed.

Value of materials used ; domestic ; foreign.

Value of boxes used ; other expenses.

Amount of capital invested.

Hours employed at work ; hours at meals.

Value of process per annum.

Silk.

Number of pounds, reeled, thrown, or other silk made.

Value of the same.

Number of males employed.

Number of females employed.

Owned by individuals.

Owned by corporations ; date of.

Actual cash capital invested.

Flax.

Value of manufactures of flax.

Number of persons employed.

Males ; females.

Actual cash capital invested.

Wool.

Number of mills.

Owned by individuals.

Owned by corporations.

Date of corporations.

Number of sets of carding machines.

Number of pounds of wool consumed per annum.†

Number of gallons of olive oil consumed.

Number of gallons of whale oil consumed.

* Cotton-thread should be returned separately.

† All quantities—per annum, and should be for 1849.

Number of gallons of lard consumed.
 Number of thousands of teasels used per annum.
 Number of tons of coal consumed per annum.
 Number of cords of wood consumed per annum.
 Number of yards broadcloth, and other 6-4 goods made.
 Number of yards cassimeres, plain ; fancy.
 Number of yards sattinets made per annum.
 Number of males employed ; number of females.
 Number of hours at labor ; hours at meals.
 Original capital ; present capital.

Worsted.

Number of mills.
 Owned by individuals.
 Owned by corporations.
 Date of corporations.
 Value of manufactured goods.

Number of males employed ; number of females.
 Number of hours at work ; at meals.
 Actual cash capital invested.
 Amount of wool used per annum.

Flannels.

Number of mills.
 Owned by individuals.
 Owned by corporations.
 Date of corporations.
 Value of flannels made.

Amount of wool used.
 Number of males employed ; females.
 Number of hours at work ; at meals.
 Capital invested.

Mixed Manufactures.

Number of mills.
 Description of peculiar ones.
 Owned by individuals.
 Owned by corporations.
 Date of corporations.

Number of males employed.
 Number of females employed.
 Number of hours at work ; hours at meals.
 Kinds of goods produced ; value.*
 Actual cash capital invested.

Carpeting.

Number of mills.
 Owned by individuals.
 Owned by corporations ; date.
 Original capital ; present capital.
 Number of males employed ; females.
 Number of yards ingrain or kidderminster made.
 Number of yards Brussels ; cotton do. mixed do.
 Amount of wool and cotton used ; value produced.

Cordage.

Number of ropewalks.
 Owned by individuals.
 Owned by corporations.
 Date of corporations.
 Value of cordage made.

Tons of stock used ; domestic.
 Tons of stock used ; foreign.
 Number of males employed ; females.
 Number of hours at work ; at meals.
 Actual cash capital invested.

Tanneries, leather, saddleries, &c.

Number of tanneries.
 Number of sides sole leather tanned.
 Number of sides upper leather tanned.
 Value of process, per annum.
 Number of men employed.
 Cash capital invested.

All other manufactures of leather.
 Saddleries, &c.
 Value of articles manufactured.
 Number of males employed.
 Number of females employed.
 Cash capital invested.

* It may be well to insert hosiery separately.

Boots and shoes.

Number of pairs of boots made.
 Number of pairs of shoes made.
 Value of stock used.
 Value of boots and shoes.

Number of males employed.
 Number of females employed.
 At work for themselves; for others.
 Cash capital invested.

India rubber.

Number of pairs of boots and shoes made; value of labor; stock.
 Value of other articles manufactured.
 Number of persons employed; capital invested.

Hats, caps, bannets, etc.

Value manufactured; value bonnets; males employed; females employed; capital invested.

Paper.

Number of mills.
 Number of engines for beating pulp.
 Number of Fourdrinier machines.
 Number of cylinder machines.
 Owned by individuals.
 Owned by corporations.
 Date of corporations.
 Value of writing paper made.

Value of printing paper made.
 Value of wrapping paper made.
 Value of binder's board made.
 Value of pasteboard made.
 Value of other board, cards, &c.
 Number of men employed.
 Number of females employed.
 Cash capital invested.

Printing.

Number of offices.
 Number of hand-presses.
 Number of power-presses.
 Value of composition done.
 Number of reams printed per annum.

Value of press-work.
 Number of males employed.
 Number of females employed.
 Cash capital invested.

Newspapers.

Number of daily.
 Number of copies printed.
 Number of weekly.
 Number of copies printed.
 Number of semi and tri-weekly.
 Number of copies printed.
 Number of monthly periodicals.

Number quarterly periodicals.
 Number of copies printed.
 Owned by editors; owned by others.
 Amount paid to editors.
 Number of males and females employed.
 Cash capital invested.

Publishing.

Number of volumes 4to published, 1849.
 Number of volumes 8vo. do do
 Number of volumes 12mo. do do
 Number of volumes 18mo. do do
 Number of pages; all other.

Amount paid to printers.
 Amount paid to artists.
 Amount paid to authors; editors.
 Amount paid to binders.
 Cash capital invested.

Binderies.

Number of binderies.
 Number of volumes bound in leather.
 Number of volumes bound in cloth.
 Number of volumes bound in paper.
 Number of volumes gilt; fancy.

Value of stock used.
 Value of work done.
 Number of males employed.
 Number of females employed.
 Cash capital invested.

Musical instruments.

Number of church organs built; value.
 Number of parlor and other organs; value.
 Number of pianos made; domestic stock; foreign stock.
 Value of work and stock.
 Number of persons employed for organs; pianos.
 Cash capital invested in each business.
 All other instruments; kinds.
 Number of persons employed. Cash capital invested.

Distilled and fermented liquors.

Number of distilleries.	Number of breweries.
Number of gallons produced.	Number of gallons produced.
Number of men employed.	Number of men employed.
Cash capital invested.	Cash capital invested.

Sugar refineries, chocolate, &c.

Number of sugar refineries.	Number of chocolate manufactories, &c.
Owned by individuals.	Value of chocolate made.
Owned by corporations.	Number persons employed.
Value of process, and materials used.	Capital invested.
Number of men employed.	Value of confectionary made.
Cash capital invested.	Number of males and females employed; capital.

Bakeries.

Number for home bread.	Number for ship bread.
Amount of flour used per annum.	Barrels of flour used per annum.
Value of materials used.	Value of materials used.
Number of persons employed.	Number of persons employed, cash capital.
Cash capital.	

Drugs, paints, and dyes.

Drugs manufactured; value produced; cash capital invested.
 Number of persons employed.
 Paints and dyes manufactured; value produced; cash capital invested.
 Number of persons employed.

Powder mills.

Number of mills owned by individuals; owned by corporations.
 Date of corporation; value produced; number of persons employed; capital invested.

Tobacco.

Value of manufactured articles; snuff, cigars, &c.
 Number of males employed; number of females employed.
 Cash capital invested.

Oils, soap, and candles.

Quantity of oil manufactured.*
 Value of process.
 Number of men employed.
 Capital invested.
 Number of pounds of soap produced.
 Number of pounds tallow candles.
 Number of pounds spermaceti candles; number of pounds wax candles.
 Number of persons employed; amount of cash capital.

* Sperm oil separately.

Ships.

Value of ships and vessels built.
Value of materials ; value of labor.
Actual cash capital invested.

Number of men employed.
Number of ships, &c., built to order.

Mills.

Number of flouring mills.
Barrels flour manufactured.
Number of men employed.
Number of grist mills.
Bushels of grain ground.
Number of saw mills.

Number of planing mills.
Number of other mills.
Owned by individuals or corporations.
Value of manufactures.
Amount of capital.

Machinery.

Number of machine shops.
Owned by individuals.
Owned by corporations ; date.
Value of machinery for railroads.

Value of machinery manufactured.
Number of men employed.
Actual cash capital invested.
Value of machinery for boats and ships.

Carriages and wagons.

Value of manufacture.
Number of men employed.
Cash capital invested.

Value of manufacture for railroads.
Number of men employed.
Cash capital invested.

Houses.

Number inhabited ; number uninhabited ; number building ; brick, stone, wood.
Number of warehouses built ; building ; number of churches built ; building ; public buildings built ; building.
Number of men employed ; value of constructing or building ; number built to order.

Bricks and lime.

Value manufactured.

Number of men employed.

Granite and marble.

Value manufactured.

Number of men employed.

Furniture.

Value of articles manufactured.
Value of materials used ; domestic ; foreign.
Number of men employed ; number of females.
Capital invested.

Clothing.

Value made ; value of materials ; value of labor.
Number of males employed ; number of females employed.
Cash capital invested.

Hardware, cutlery.

Value of cutlery manufactured.
All other kinds hardware.
Owned by individuals ; owned by corporations.
Capital invested ; number of persons employed.

Type and stereotype foundries.

Number of pounds of type cast.
 Value of materials used.
 Value of type made.
 Number of males and females employed.
 Actual cash capital invested.
 Number of pages stereotyped: 4to.; 8vo.; 12mo.; 18mo.; 32mo.
 Value of materials used.
 Value work done.
 Number of males; number of females employed; capital.

Number of cannon—small arms.

Number of cannon cast. Number of persons employed.
 Number of small arms made. Cash capital invested.

Precious and other metals.

Value of precious metals manufactured.
 Number of persons employed; capital.
 Value of other metals manufactured.
 Number of persons employed; capital.

Glass, earthenware, wood, &c.

Number of glass-houses.
 Number of glass cutting establishments.
 Owned by individuals; date.
 Owned by corporations; date.
 Value of manufactured articles, including looking-glasses.
 Number of persons employed; capital.
 Number of potteries.
 Value of manufactured articles.
 Number of persons employed.
 All wares of wood.
 Value of articles.
 Number of persons employed; capital.

All other manufactures.

Value of all other manufactures not before enumerated.
 Number of corporations not enumerated.
 Description of peculiar ones.
 Value of home-made or family goods.
 Number of males employed; number of females.
 Actual cash capital invested.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Roads.—s. d.

Extent of public ways, free.	Extent of railroads.
Extent of turnpike roads.	Capital; cost of road.
Capital of do.; date of do.	Number of persons employed.

Canals.—s. d.

Extent; number of miles.	Owned by companies.
Width; depth.	When opened.
Public.	Capital; cost; income.

Steam navigation.—S. D.

Number of boats on rivers.
Capital invested.
Length of each trip.
Number of persons employed.

Number of boats on the lakes.
Number of boats on the oceans ; foreign.*
Capital invested ; cost provisions per month
Number of persons employed.

Bridges.—S. D.

Number constructed of stone.
Number constructed of wood.
Toll free ; when built.

Built by the public.
Built by private companies.
Extent ; number of rods ; cost.

Waterworks.—S. D.

Extent of pipe, kind, and size.
Constructed by the public ; by private companies.
Number of persons employed ; capital of companies ; cost of public.

Telegraphs.—S. D.

Number of companies.
Extent of magnetic lines.
Capital invested.

Cost of construction.
Number of persons employed.
Extent of, and cost of, for marine purposes.

COMMERCE.†

Trade.

Number of firms in domestic trade ; wholesale.
Number of firms in foreign trade ; wholesale.
Number of firms in foreign and domestic trade ; wholesale.
Number of firms in commission business, domestic ; wholesale.
Number of firms in commission business, foreign ; wholesale.
Number of firms in commission business, foreign and domestic ; wholesale.
Number of firms in domestic produce ; wholesale.
Number of retail stores ; dry-goods ; groceries do. mixed.
Actual cash capital invested.
Number of persons employed ; for themselves ; for others.

Navigation.

Returns of cost of "provisioning" ships and vessels.
Kind, quality, &c., of food.
Cost for each man per month.

Lumber, fuel, &c.

Number of lumber, wood, and coal-yards ; capital ; men employed.
Sums paid for labor, power, &c.

Internal transportation.

Kind ; extent of ; men employed.
Value of means ; capital invested.

* This item does not belong in this place, and yet it may not be well to place it alone.

† INTERNAL COMMERCE.—Many are desirous of obtaining the trade of the States. Returns might be made to show the pecuniary value of the Union. The traders of each State, for example, might give the aggregates of their sales to each State, or they might return the amount of their purchases of each State.

Banks.—S. D.

Number; date of each; capital; loans and deposits, July 1849; dividends 1849.
 Number of bank failures.

Insurance companies.—S. D.

Number of marine stock.
 Capital of marine stock.
 Number of marine mutual.
 Number of fire stock.

Capital of fire stock.
 Number of fire mutual.
 Amount of each at risk.
 Losses and dividends 1849.

Life and Health.—S. D.

Number of life offices; stock.
 Number of life offices; mutual.
 Number of health; amount insured; amount of losses paid 1849.
 Number of persons employed.

Bankruptcies.—S. D.

Number in each profession since 1840; amount of dividend paid.

Letters from Mr. Jesse Chickering.

BOSTON, January 20, 1849.

DEAR SIR: Yours of the 18th ult., I received on the 21st. You ask me to "give you my views in full" respecting the new census of the United States; the same request had before been made to me, and I had, to some extent, given my views *verbally* to several persons. Other engagements have prevented my answering your request immediately.

The provision of the constitution, (Art. 1, secs. 2 and 3,) under which Congress order the censuses of the United States, was designed to regulate the apportionment of representation and of direct taxation. Before the adoption of the constitution, in the uncertainty which existed in relation to the population and wealth of the several States, the votes were taken by *States*; and it was finally agreed that, under the constitution, until the result of the first census was known, a specific number of representatives should be allowed to each State, and afterwards their apportionment, like that of direct taxation, should be made according to the respective numbers in the States deduced in a prescribed way from the censuses to be taken.

Thus the original purpose was clear, and the earlier censuses were comparatively simple. They had immediate relation to *population* only. It is well for us on this subject, as well as on others, to have a distinct and exact idea of the *original* purpose. I do not mean but that it is proper, in some degree, to modify and extend the original purpose; indeed, the only way by which we can carry out this purpose, is by accomodating the plan and details to new relations and new emergencies.

The original purpose has been answered, to which much has been added, which has relation to different matter, and has a different object, and which is of importance not merely in a scientific point of view, as illustrating the history of man, but in further aid of legislation. I think, however, that had the particulars required been *different*, they would

have served these purposes better. I am apprehensive that the great number of particulars required, especially in the sixth census, relating to *property* by tasking too much the assistants, have rendered the statements so erroneous as to be of little value. Very inadequate means, also, were used for obtaining accurately the information sought in 1840.

It is important for us to bear in mind what class of facts and what particulars are most *suitable* for the *national* governments, and what for the *State* governments to obtain, and what are attainable, with a degree of exactness which will render the information of value. It is also important to employ *suitable* and *adequate* means in a matter of this kind.

I should like to see much more done than has been attempted by Congress, or by any State legislature, for the collection of facts which illustrate the condition and progress of our country.

At the time of taking a census of the population of the United States, it is of great importance to have a census taken embracing other matters than population, and having reference to other than the original objects of the census. But it appears to me that *another commission* for these matters would be more likely to secure the results from looseness and error. These results, if to be depended upon, would be the basis of comparison of the great interests of our country from time to time, and show the progress and strength of the nation, and would furnish the means of comparison with other nations, especially those of Europe, in many of which these matters are ascertained with great care and exactness, and in all of which our country is contemplated with intense interest by many well-wishers of the human race.

In the censuses we have had there are *errors* and *imperfections*. I think that the *number* of persons may be very well depended upon, so far as relates to a *comparison of them at different epochs*. The errors in one locality may be presumed to be very nearly affected by those in another, and perfect exactness is not required. Thus, this one element of number serves as the index of the progress of improvement and wealth of the nation to those who are conversant with the history of the times.

In general, I think that the true population of our country has *exceeded* the number stated in each census. The late Mr. Adams (J. Q.) told me that the census of 1790, the first ordered by Congress under the constitution, had been supposed to be particularly defective, owing to its being the first, and to the prejudices against taking it in many quarters. However, in comparing it with the following ones, I have been unable to satisfy myself that this was the case. You doubtless remember that many have thought that the census of 1840 was also particularly defective, and that a memorial was sent to Congress from Massachusetts on the subject. I have no doubt great imperfections relating to Boston were in that census; still I doubt whether the number of 93,383 for the population of Boston, in that census, was greater than the true number at that time. It is true, that according to that census, one family in Boston numbered over a thousand persons, of whom only five or six were females, and several other families had each five or six hundred, and in a small number of families, (I think about seventy,) there were over six thousand persons, all males but about one hundred. These families were sailor boarding houses. There was a difference in a single ward of some six thousand between the United States census and the State census; the two being taken within a few weeks of each other. The result of the whole was,

that according to the United States census in 1840, there were more *males* in Boston, than *females*; a most extraordinary fact, if true, which might well suggest a doubt of the accuracy of the enumeration. Many other defects in that census I could easily point out.

You recollect that 133 insane and idiotic *colored* persons were reported in the United States census of 1840, as belonging to the town of Worcester, Massachusetts, and were made the basis of an argument addressed to the British government by the Secretary of State, in his sensitive zeal to show the blessings of slavery and the inexpediency of checking its extension. As to colored persons being in an extraordinary degree liable to be insane and idiotic in consequence of being free and living in the midst of the whites, I have never seen such facts in the history of that portion of the human race as render it probable. It seems hardly possible but that Providence would counteract and prevent such a result.

Congress, in ordering the first five censuses, have had in view chiefly the number, sex, and classes of the *population*; in the sixth census they contemplated a survey of various items relating to wealth.

The first census was simple, designating only 5 classes of persons; the second and third, 12; the fourth census contains no less than 32 classes; and in the fifth, the arrangement of the white persons as to ages is very different from that of the preceding, and is followed in the sixth.

It is to be regretted, that the *same division* in respect to ages, of both whites and blacks, (free and slaves,) had not been followed in all the censuses. Had this been done, we should have the means of comparing the whites with each other in respect to ages, and also with the colored, and the colored with each other, at different epochs of our history; and some important conclusions might be drawn from the censuses in relation to the value of life to the whites, to the slave, and to the free colored in the midst of the whites.

I hope that no fewer divisions as to the ages of the whites will be required in the next census than the quinquennial divisions up to 20 years, and the decennial divisions above; and I am desirous that the same divisions should be adopted in relation to the colored, both free and slaves. A want of this uniformity in the censuses heretofore, has rendered them almost valueless for comparing the ages of the two classes distinguished by color.

In the fourth and sixth censuses, persons engaged in agriculture, commerce and manufactures—in the last two, the deaf and dumb and blind; and in the last, the insane and idiotic—and also those engaged in mining, navigation, and the learned professions, together with certain particulars relating to education, are specified. It would be very desirable if we could have these particulars through the whole country accurately stated once in ten years. But I apprehend, that in attempting to ascertain these particulars, in addition to those relating to the number, sex, and ages of the population, the minds of the assistants are liable to be overburdened, and the results to be uncertain. Most of these particulars seem to be more appropriate for the several *States*, which, of course, are more immediately concerned in legislating according to the indications of these results.

After the form of the new census is concluded upon, whatever may be the facts which it is proposed to collect, there are *difficulties* in carrying out the plan, and great liabilities to error. The people sometimes look

with a jealous eye upon the whole subject, without understanding the purpose of it, and refuse to give correct information, or give wrong information. The assistants, such as have been sometimes employed, have been imperfectly acquainted with the importance of accuracy in the details. From statements made to me in the marshal's office in this district, it seemed to me obvious that the agents employed in 1840 had but a very loose idea of the objects of a census, and the returns which they made were represented as very confused.

In the multitude of facts required in the census of 1840, the assistants seemed to have entertained and carried out *no definite and uniform idea* of the meaning of some of the particulars required. For example, in the columns containing the number of persons employed in mining, agriculture, commerce, &c. What is meant by those employed in *commerce*? Was the idea *uniform* in all parts of the country? Did it include the itinerant pedlar, the small retailer, or the wholesale merchant? or sometimes one or more, or all these descriptions of persons?

If Congress order the census to be taken under the direction of the State Department, and the instructions and directions are issued from that department, *clear and distinct* ideas, which should be *carried out through all parts of the country*, should be given of what is meant by each class and item required. This does not appear to have been done in 1830. I have not at hand the instructions for the other censuses.

There is difficulty in ascertaining the number of persons, and especially the *ages*. People are often tempted to conceal the ages at certain periods of life, or give such loose and conjectural information as satisfies the assistants, or which they have no means or disposition to correct, and they hurry on to the next house or family, in order to dispatch as much as possible with the least pains. When the particulars required are more numerous, the danger becomes greater of creating greater confusion in the minds of the agents and others, and of having returns more confused and erroneous.

I mention the above sources of error for the purpose of showing the importance of requiring *no unimportant fact*, and further, of requiring *only the most important facts attainable of a general nature*; and, above all, that there should be a *clear and definite idea* of what is required, in the minds of the agents, and that this idea *be carried out uniform throughout the country*. I do not understand what is intended by those engaged in commerce in the census of 1840. I do not understand how it is hardly possible that there should be of this class in the city of Troy, New York, 796 in a population of 19,334, and in Albany only 35, in a population of 33,721. They are both highly commercial cities. Again, as to those engaged in agriculture. Does this class include the children and families of agriculturists? Were there only 3,717,756, or a little more than a fifth part of the whole population, who belonged to the agricultural population? And were there no more than 28 *per cent.* of the whole population belonging to the seven principal employments? We wish to be able to calculate the proportion of persons in each of the most important employments, with a view to calculating the elementary contribution of each to the support and strength of the whole people as a nation for the information of the public. There ought to have accompanied the printed census not merely the law and the instructions from the Department of State, such as they were, but clear definitions of what was meant by every item designated to be ascertained. The

omission is a defect; without such a key, the printed census becomes dry, uninteresting, and almost void of instruction.

The census ought to be taken in all parts of the country *on the same day*; and it seems to me that the 1st of June is the most appropriate, so as to conform to most of the preceding ones. In 1841, England was divided into, I think, 40,000 districts, of a size to be each easily traversed by an individual in a single day, and each agent was required to complete his work on the day appointed. It is hardly possible to divide the United States into such districts, but the census should be taken in reference to a particular day, and should be, if possible, *on that day*, or as nearly so as possible after that day.

It has often appeared to me that the census might be better taken through the *State organizations*, at least in some of the States, as in Massachusetts, where the whole territory is formed into well regulated towns; and I would recommend that the law be so framed as to give the marshal discretionary power, in conjunction with the district judge, to make an arrangement with the State authorities for taking the census, or that the suggestion be made to the marshal, or whomsoever has the charge of taking the census in a district, to avail himself of the aid of the selectmen or assessors of the several towns to perform this labor. The assessors are required annually to become acquainted with most of the people, and with the taxable property of the town, and while performing these duties, they would be the best qualified for taking the census, and their returns would be most likely to be accurate. This mode is in accordance with the only means which Congress had to rely upon during the Revolution, and before the first census of the United States was taken, when they wished to apportion the public burdens among the States.

I think that the returns thus obtained would be much more depended upon than when the census is taken, as heretofore, under the direction of the marshal, who farms out among his assistants the several portions of his district. There are persons in every town who are acquainted with almost every family, and the collector annually goes to every part of the town to collect taxes. But these agents, such as have been generally employed, often, for the first time in their lives, visit the towns which have been allotted to them, and are thus liable to perform their work very imperfectly and to omit many persons, though they do the best they can. I remember, that in 1820 or 1830, a lady told me that the agent or assistant, after learning of her the particulars of her family, and of one or two more in her neighborhood, inquired if any more persons lived on that road in the town, and upon being informed by her that there were none, he returned. She afterwards recollected a family of eleven persons living about a mile beyond on the same road. These eleven persons constituted over 2 per cent. of the 500 inhabitants in that town, and amounted to annual increase of its population.

Other similar omissions are likely to occur with a stranger poorly acquainted with the localities of a town; but they could hardly occur if the assessors or collector was employed under the auspices of a well organized town. There is a pride in most towns to have the whole number of the inhabitants returned in the census. In 1830 some towns in Massachusetts were so dissatisfied with the result of these agents of government, that at a town meeting, as I have been told, a new census was ordered at the expense of the town.

If we pass by the regularly-constituted authorities under State organization, it is difficult procuring competent persons, whose *tastes* are adapted to the work of taking a census, and who are sufficiently acquainted with the localities; and even after the materials are collected, it is not every one that is fit to put them together. There is a great deal of labor in it, and it requires accuracy and skill to arrange and digest these materials, and few have a taste or capacity for it. To illustrate this last, I will allude to the preparation of the table containing the population of the towns in Massachusetts, according to the six censuses of the United States, appended to the State map, which was published in 1844. That map was one of the fruits of the survey of the State, which survey probably cost a hundred thousand dollars. It was desirable to have every part of it as correct as possible. One of the councillors was employed to prepare this table. The six censuses were published at the time by authority of Congress, and were all accessible in Boston, in different libraries, though I believe the whole series is not to be found in any one library in the Commonwealth. Instead of consulting and copying the printed censuses for this table, a manuscript was sent for, and obtained from Washington, which, probably, without being ever examined, was engraved, and the whole was approved of by two executive councils, and ordered to be printed and published. Notice was given to the secretary of the Commonwealth, who was charged with the publication of the map, of the existence of some fifty errors and blunders in the engraved copy, and he preferred to have them published without correcting them, saying that he would seek to have a law passed which should authorize the correction of errors in the map at some future time. A list of these errors was prepared at the request of the secretary, who wished for it for the purpose of submitting it to the governor and council. On the small map the western railroad is put down *east* of Worcester. In the table there are two Boston corners, two Hardwicks, one town in a wrong county, and a great number of errors in the figures some places were omitted. In adding up towns the amount agreed with the authorized aggregate only in one instance, I think, and that was effected by an error. An error of several hundreds was committed in adding up a single county, &c.

I allude to this merely to show how loosely work of this kind is sometimes done, even when the means are at hand of doing it correctly, either from want of taste, of industry, or from some other cause. In my work on the population of Massachusetts, published in 1846, all these errors in the table are corrected.

I think it important, in the next census, to specify the number of persons who are *foreigners by birth*; that is to say, of those who have *emigrated from other countries*, including *their children, born before their arrival*, and who shall be within the limits of the United States at the time of taking the census of 1850. I would *not* include in this class those foreigners who are mere travellers in this country, nor those who are transiently here on business, for they are no part of the people who properly belong to this country. Of course I do *not* include in this class those who were born in States or Territories, as Texas and a portion of Mexico, annexed to or ceded to the United States. My object is to determine, as near as may be, the proportions between the native and the foreign population of the country. I can hardly recommend the specifying of each and every

country whence these foreigners have come, and classifying them accordingly, lest the details be so numerous as to create confusion.

As to the *naturalization* of foreigners, I suggested to you, in my letters of the 22d of April and the 10th of May last, the propriety of having returns annually made of those who are naturalized in the United States.

In the census of 1820, the foreigners not naturalized are put down at 53,687, and in that of 1830, the number of aliens is stated to be 107,832 in the United States. The number now annually arriving and registered at the custom-houses, is more than double this last number; and the number, including those coming into the country without being thus registered, is, I suppose, three times the whole number of aliens reported in the census of 1830. The numbers in those censuses, I apprehend, contained but a small portion of the foreigners in the United States at those epochs. The result of my inquiries on this subject is that the proportion to the whole population of our country of those immigrating here, has been substantially the same from year to year since 1790 down to the present time, with the exception of 3 or 4 years, from 1812 to 1815, which embraced the period of the second war with England. It has, no doubt, varied somewhat in two successive years, owing to local causes operating in foreign countries, stimulating the people to emigrate, or encouraging them to remain at home. As evidence of the great excitement in the public mind on this subject, as well as of national spleen against the United States, so long ago as 1794, one of the British writers stigmatised America as "the Botany Bay of the whole world." (*Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. LXIV, p. 170.)

We are annually receiving, as immigrants to live and die here, nearly a quarter of a million from foreign countries, arriving on ship-board, and registered at our customs houses, to say nothing of those coming into the country who are not thus registered; and if the census of 1850 should show the number of these foreigners by birth, who may be in the country at that time, we should have the means of forming some very satisfactory conclusions respecting the *mortality* of the foreign and immigrant population among us, as well as respecting the number and political importance of those who have settled among us. We should obtain results full of reflection to the statesman, the philanthropist, and the philosopher. We should see, under a new aspect, evidences of the gradual changes that are steadily and surely going on in the body and soul of our country.

This annual immigration of two hundred and fifty thousand will in ten years amount to two and a half millions, which is no small part of the whole increase of the white population; and in fifty years more, the number from this source, with their natural increase, after making large allowances for their mortality, will add a population at least equal to the whole amount in 1850, including all the colored. This consummation, by means of the annual additions from foreigners will, in all probability, take place on the soil now embraced within the limits of the United States, before one that is now born shall have seen as many years as have elapsed since either of us was born. These hosts of immigrants are distributed among a people who, favored by Providence with an extensive and productive soil, and by laws and institutions adapted to the development of a healthful character, have, by their industry, procured an abundance of the necessities of life, and are ready to export from their abundance something to strangers to save them from disease, famine, and death. These

immigrants, with their natural increase, will, in about ten years add a population as numerous as the white population of the United States in 1790, and will of themselves form a mighty nation in the life of a man, and almost in a single generation, without enumerating those on the soil at the commencement of the period, or their descendants. It was never in the power of Alexander the Great, in building up Alexandria, nor of his successors, nor in that of imperial Rome in forcing the rise of Constantinople to sustain the transmigration of human beings, in any degree to be compared with what has been done, can be done, and will be done by the people of the United States. The structure of society and the operation of our laws are very different from what existed in those times. The people are also very different. (See my letter to you of May 24, 1848.) In those times, the power was concentrated in the hands of a few, and the case is somewhat similar in all the countries of the Old World at this moment. But in this country there is a republican independence of spirit and of means, and everywhere, from one end of the country to the opposite in all directions, there is a capacity diffused among the people, and a willingness to receive more, and to help the unfortunate; individuals volunteer their hospitable assistance, and a thousand organizations all over the country, under a generous impulse, which is in accordance with many of the charitable requisitions originally imposed in England from necessity, are active in relieving the wants of the stranger. There is a limit to the ability of the people for receiving into the community, and for absorbing into the body politic those who come from abroad to settle among us, without the danger of the most serious inconveniences and distresses. The flow of immigration thus far does not seem to me to have often exceeded this limit in many places in our country, though from the statement in Lord Durham's report on the affairs of the British North American provinces, more persons seem to have frequently arrived in those provinces than the resources of the government and of the people there had provided for. This tide of emigration will continue to flow from the Old World; and the prospect now is that for some time to come, nine-tenths of the whole number will find their way into the United States for their future home. Neither the people nor the government of the United States seem disposed to prohibit it, and, for various reasons, it may be best that they should not.

I should not, perhaps, have dwelt so long on specifying foreigners in the next census, had I not given some attention to the subject of immigration, to which I was necessarily led by my inquiries relating to the increase of the population of the United States.

Another circumstance I will mention in this connexion. In pursuance of an act of Congress of March 2, 1819, returns have been made by the collectors of passengers from foreign countries arriving in the several collection districts, and register at the custom-houses, from October 1, 1819, to the present time. When these returns shall be continued to September 30 next, the period embraced will be 30 years. My book embraces a period of 26 years from October 1, 1820. The year preceding escaped my notice in preparing that work. I have before me the result of that year, and of the year ending September 30, 1847, the whole embracing a period of 28 years. During these 28 years, the whole number of passengers, exclusive of those belonging to the United States, is 1,597,897, of whom 875,121 are specified as coming from the United Kingdom, 405,829 from Germany and the north of Europe, and 316,947

from other countries. Of these last, a large portion are not specified, and I gather from the returns, and from other circumstances, that at least from 50 to 100 thousand of them are from the United Kingdom. Of the whole number, 79.77 *per cent.* arrived in the free States, and the rest in the slave States. To these 1,597,897 we must add, for the year ending September 30, 1848, just reported to Congress, 226,514, and we have 1,824,411 for the 29 years to September 30, 1848. The number registered for the 30 years ending September 30, of this year, will doubtless exceed two millions, to which we are to add about 70 *per cent.* of those from Great Britain, destined for the British North American provinces, and others not registered, and the number will amount to over three millions in 30 years, from October 1, 1819. Let a digest of these returns, for a period of 30 or 31 years to June or September 30, 1850, be prepared and published contemporaneously with the new census, containing a full and correct enumeration of the foreign (by birth) population of our country, and the two works would confirm and illustrate each other, and present some new views for reflection in relation to the history, the character, and destiny of our country.

Permit me to suggest to you the propriety of adopting some measures for having a digest prepared of the several returns of the collectors relating to passengers from foreign countries and the subject of foreign immigration in connexion with the next census. I should like to make such a report. The subject is one on which I have spent much time, without receiving any compensation for my labor. The very tables which it has been necessary for me to make, fill about 150 folio pages, all of which I have transcribed twice, and some of them more times.

Our country when discovered and settled by Europeans, was in the possession of the Indian tribes. The settlers have been, from time to time, involved in numberless contests with these tribes, and the government of the United States has been often called upon to settle the disputes and restore peace on our borders. Many of these tribes have faded away before the whites like leaves in autumn, and become extinct, and those which remain are destined to the same fate. Many of these tribes are under a species of guardianship to the United States. We have made treaties with them, but they are of a different kind from what we make with foreign nations. Thus far we have had no very accurate account of any considerable number of these tribes. This has been often regretted by those interested in our history. It would be an interesting document in our history if we could have an accurate enumeration of the several tribes, with the number of persons, male and female, belonging to each in the several States and Territories of the United States, particularly of those in the new regions annexed and ceded. I make the suggestion for your consideration, whether it would not be well, especially at this time, when we are about receiving under our government a vast extent of territory, containing numerous Indian tribes, bordering on the Pacific, for us to devise some means, either as a part of the next census, or in some other way, for ascertaining the number of persons belonging to the Indian tribes in the United States. I am aware of the delicacy of the subject arising from their reserved independence, which we, of course, should be disposed to respect.

In connexion with the subject of the next census, I would observe, that

I think it important for the government to order a *new and correct edition* of the whole of the first four censuses of the United States. Copies of these censuses have become scarce, so much so that it is difficult for an individual to find them for consultation. I have been unable to discover a complete series in any one collection in Massachusetts. The censuses of the United States form an important part of the documentary history of the country, and will be consulted, from time to time, by the student of American history. These four censuses should be printed in a folio volume, to correspond with the fifth and sixth censuses. I should hope that the edition would be superintended with more care than the revision was made in 1832 by order of Congress.*

Had I the plan before me which it is proposed to adopt for the next census, I could have more easily and more satisfactorily have suggested alterations or additions than I have now written, having before me not one of the acts relating to former censuses, and only the last two of the censuses. In conclusion, I will add, *it is better to have a few leading facts clearly and accurately ascertained, than to attempt a great number and obtain only loose returns.* The value of the census of 1840 seems to me to be greatly impaired by attempting too much.

Yours, respectfully,

JESSE CHICKERING.

Hon. JOHN DAVIS,
United States Senate, Washington.

BOSTON, February 23, 1849.

DEAR SIR: Yesterday I received yours of the 16th instant, in which you express a wish to print my "letter on population," which relates to the next census of the United States. I wrote that letter for your use and that of the committee on the census, rather in haste and amid other occupations. I believe the statements in it are correct. You are at liberty to have it printed, and extracts also from other letters to you referred to in it. I wish you would send me a copy when printed.

The great purpose of taking a census once in ten years, contemplated by the framers of the constitution, was for the apportionment of the representatives and of direct taxes among the States. At the time of adopting the constitution, it was very much a matter of conjecture what the population even was in a single State; and as for the comparative value of property, according to a fair and uniform standard, through the States first admitted into the Union, this was even more a matter of conjecture. Even now, after the experience of 60 years, we have not the means of such an apportionment, according to property, with much more equality perhaps than could have been done in 1790. I apprehend that another half century will transpire before we shall be able to do it, so that our guide for such apportionment must, for a long time to come, be the federal population as determined from time to time.

*There should be appended to this edition the laws, instructions, &c., which relate to each census, together with explanatory notes. There might also be added a summary of the following censuses to 1850, for the information of those who might not see these last censuses.

In that letter I said, that "it is important for us to bear in mind what class of facts and what particulars are most *suited* for the national government, and what for the State governments to obtain." In the United Kingdom there is but one central government, and a census taken there must proceed from the central head. So in France, even in the new republic there are wanting the secondary or State sovereignties for local purposes. But in the United States the system of government is different from that of other countries. In our extensive country, large portions of which are a wilderness, and generally the population has been sparse, one central government would be hardly adequate to the wants of this active community, whose rampant desires for legislation must be gratified. The State governments, with their *reserved* sovereignty, can better provide for the local interests than a general government could; and if a fair degree of comity and accommodation subsist between the States, no important interest of one or more States is likely to suffer. Provision is also made by means of the Supreme Court of the United States, to interpose in certain classes of disputes between the States. I think this limited sovereignty reserved to the States is a most admirable part of our system for securing attention to the local wants, and provision for understandingly supplying these wants. As one of the means of a wise legislation, it becomes a State to order returns of facts with more particularity than can be depended upon under a general census of the country. This policy has been pursued in Massachusetts. We have had returns from the towns for seven decennial State valuations of the taxable property to 1840. By a comparison of these with the population, we can show the progress of wealth during different periods. According to these returns, I have estimated the average amount of taxable property per head among the inhabitants of Massachusetts at \$116 22 in 1790, at \$170 43 in 1800, at \$207 50 in 1810, at \$293 42 in 1820, at \$342 15 in 1830, and at \$406 50 in 1840.

Returns were made in 1840 of the number of acres of land on the assessor's books of all the towns in the Commonwealth, except Boston Corner and Marshpel, and the whole number was 4,502,843 $\frac{1}{2}$, of which 2,307,000 were embraced within the jurisdiction of incorporated towns before the end of 1673. This fact is in keeping with the historical account of the great emigration to Massachusetts during the first part of these 53 years, and of the rapid settlements on our soil. Since which time the emigrants have been comparatively scattered, and most of those who have come have moved to other places, without settling down here; the soil having been previously occupied. We have also had two censuses (1837 and 1845) of certain branches of industry in this Commonwealth, which are valuable in many respects, and would have been much more valuable, had there been such a systematic arrangement of the facts as would have made the materials easy of access. Should such returns be continued from time to time, they will serve various purposes of legislation and of historical interest. I have alluded to these returns in Massachusetts, as containing matters which seem to me to be more appropriate for a State than for the national government. Other States have, to some extent, imitated the example of Massachusetts in these things.

I might easily write more on this boundless subject, upon which you have asked my views. The very extent of the subject is reason enough why we should limit our plan to the most essential general facts, that are attainable with a fair degree of accuracy, and have minute particulars of a

local nature to the States, which will, if wise, attend to what more properly belongs to their especial charge, remembering that if we do well a little in our day and generation, it may be of more service to humanity than to attempt more than we can accomplish.

Yours, respectfully,

JESSE CHICKERING.

Hon. JOHN DAVIS.